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DOCTOR WHO

SERIAL 5L

EPISODE 2: 'The Horns of Nimon'

by

Anthony Read

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DOCTOR WHO - EPISODE 2: 'THE HORNS OF NIMON'

CAST:

DOCTOR WHO  
ROMANA  
K9

SETH  
TEKA

CO-PILOT

SOLDEED

SORAK

THE NIMON

EXTRAS & WALK-ONS: 5 ANETHANS, GUARDS, SKONIAN MILITARY LEADERS

\* \* \* \* \*

SETS:

Tardis Control Room  
Spaceship: Flight Deck, Hold.  
Soldeed's Laboratory  
Nimon Complex: Entrance, Corridors, Central Chamber,  
'Larder', 'Dining Room'.  
Corridor outside Soldeed's Lab.  
Council Chamber

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2/1

DOCTOR WHO

EPISODE 2: 'The Horns of Nimon'

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1. INT. TARDIS. (REPRISE END EP.1)

(THE DOCTOR AND  
K9)

THE DOCTOR: Of all the ungrateful  
creatures ...

K9: Master.

THE DOCTOR: Yes, K9?

K9: Scanner detects large object  
approaching at great speed.

(THE DOCTOR OPERATES  
THE VIEWSCREEN.  
AN OBJECT APPEARS  
ON IT: A LARGE  
LUMP OF ROCK,  
GROWING RAPIDLY  
AS IT APPROACHES)

THE DOCTOR: Looks like an asteroid.  
What do you make of it?

K9: I calculate it has a mass equivalent to 220 million tons ...

THE DOCTOR: That's not an asteroid, that's a small planet ...

K9: Diameter 96.4 Kilometres. Approaching at a velocity of mach 9.3.

THE DOCTOR: And it's coming right for us!

K9: Affirmative.

THE DOCTOR: Estimated time to impact?

K9: Master?

THE DOCTOR: How long have we got?

K9: Estimated time to impact ...

THE DOCTOR: That's what I said.

K9: ... eighty nine point four seconds.

THE DOCTOR: Ninety six point four kilometres. That's not particularly small. No defence shields, no dematerialisation, only half power on main drive, I think we're about to find out what it's like to be a cricket ball. (cont ...)

(THE DOCTOR ADJUSTS  
CONTROLS FRANTICALLY.  
HE SPEAKS TO THE  
TARDIS AS HE DOES SO)



THE DOCTOR: (cont) Sorry old girl, it's been a great partnership.

K9: Master ...

THE DOCTOR: Alright K9. This is no time for petty jealousies. You too.

K9: Thank you Master. Time to impact now fifty eight seconds, dead.

THE DOCTOR: I wish you wouldn't use expressions like that did I say cricket ball?

2. INT. SPACESHIP FLIGHT DECK.

(THE CO PILOT IS  
AT THE CONTROLS.

ROMANA HANGS ON  
TO THE CAPTAIN'S  
SEAT, FIGHTING  
THE ACCELERATION  
AND G FORCES.

THE NOISE OF THE  
ENGINES IS  
TREMENDOUS. THEN  
THE NOISE DIMINISHES  
AND WE HEAR THE  
BEEP BEEP OF THE  
FLIGHT BEACON LOUD  
AND CLEAR)

CO PILOT: The beacon! We made it,  
we're back on course.

(ROMANA GETS INTO  
THE CAPTAIN'S  
SEAT AND MAKES  
AS IF TO TAKE OVER  
THE CONTROLS)

ROMANA: We must go back.

CO PILOT: Get away from those  
controls.

ROMANA: We can't just leave the  
Doctor back there.

CO PILOT: Get up! (cont ...)

(CO PILOT WAVES  
THE BLASTER AT  
HER. SHE GETS  
UP AND BACKS AWAY)

CO PILOT: (cont) Into the hold!  
Move! Your friend can rot in his  
black hole for all I care.

TELECINE 2:

Model Shot.

Asteroid belting  
through space at a  
rate of knots.

END TELECINE 2.

3. INT. TARDIS.

(BCU THE DOCTOR'S  
FACE, DISTORTED,  
TO GIVE THE  
IMPRESSION THAT  
HE IS WHIZZING  
PAST US SEVERAL  
TIMES A SECOND,  
AS IF ON THE  
WALL OF A  
CENTRIFUGE)

THE DOCTOR: This is it K9 ...

(THERE IS AN  
ENORMOUS CRASH  
AS THE ASTEROID  
HITS THEM)

4. INT. SPACESHIP HOLD.

(THE DOOR OPENS,  
AND ROMANA IS  
SHOVED THROUGH  
IT BY THE  
CO-PILOT)

CO-PILOT: Stay in there and keep  
quiet for the rest of the journey.

(HE SLAMS THE  
DOOR CLOSED,  
AND FASTENS IT  
FROM THE OUTSIDE.

SETH AND THE OTHER  
ANETHANS LOOK UP  
AT HER, LISTLESSLY,  
AS SHE TURNS AND  
LOOKS AT THEM.

SHE TAKES A DEEP  
BREATH, SIGHS  
HEAVILY, AND SITS  
HERSELF DOWN)

TELECINE 3:

Model Shot.

The spaceship zooms  
forward on its way,  
passing out of  
SHOT.

CAMERA WHIP PANS  
to another part  
of the sky, and  
PICKS UP:

The Tardis. Alone  
in the vastness,  
turning over and  
over, spinning  
slowly through  
space, horizontally  
and vertically.

END TELECINE 3.

5. INT. TARDIS.

(TURN CAMERA  
OVER AND OVER  
TO REPRESENT  
TARDIS SPINNING.

THE MOTION SLOWS  
AND STOPS.

WE SEE THE  
DOCTOR STRETCHED  
OUT ON THE FLOOR  
AGAINST THE WALL,  
UNCONSCIOUS.

K9 IS LYING  
ON HIS SIDE AGAINST  
THE WALL.

THE DOCTOR'S EYELIDS  
FLICKER, HE COMES TO.  
HE LOOKS CAUTIOUSLY  
AROUND THEN SITS UP  
GINGERLY AND FEELS  
HIMSELF ALL OVER,  
CHECKING THAT HE  
IS IN ONE PIECE.  
SATISFIED HE TURNS  
AND RIGHTS K9)

THE DOCTOR: K9 ... are you all  
right?

K9: Affirmative.

THE DOCTOR: How am I?

(K9 EXTENDS  
HIS PROBE AND  
TOUCHES THE  
DOCTOR'S FOREHEAD)



K9: There appears to be no damage to your circuitry.

THE DOCTOR: That's nice to know. Let's hope the same is true of the Tardis.

(HE GETS UP AND  
GOES OVER TO  
THE CONTROL  
COLUMN AND CHECKS  
WITH THE INSTRUMENTS)

There! We did it! I just put a lot of spin on the Tardis so that the asteroid simply sliced us up out of the gravity whirlpool! You know K9, I sometimes think I'm wasted just flying round the Universe saving planets from destruction. With talent like mine I could have been a slow bowler.

K9: Define slow bowler.

THE DOCTOR: Slow bowler? The man who bowls at the batsman, and puts a clever little spin on the ball so the batsman doesn't know how it's going to bounce.

K9: Please explain significance of that.

THE DOCTOR: Significance? It's cricket. That's how significant it is.

K9: (TWISTING HIS EARS) Possible malfunction of comprehension circuits.

THE DOCTOR: Listen tinhead, why don't you just get on analysing the damage to the Tardis so I can fix it and we can be on our way?

6. INT. THE NIMON COMPLEX CENTRAL CHAMBER.

(SOLDEED STANDS  
BEFORE THE NIMON)

NIMON: You dare to speak to me of failure! Be mindful of the terms of the pact Soldeed.

SOLDEED: I am, Lord Nimon.

NIMON: Be mindful of what you have undertaken to perform! The tributes must be brought before me!

SOLDEED: They will be Lord Nimon.

NIMON: There can be no stumbling in the great Journey of Life!

SOLDEED: Indeed not Lord Nimon. We are doing everything we can to trace the ship. It's possible that the Anethans might have attacked her to rescue the prisoners.

NIMON: And what have you done to exact vengeance and reparation for such a deed?

SOLDEED: Er, nothing as yet Lord Nimon, it's only just occurred to me. I came to you as soon as I heard the news.

NIMON: You are idle, Soldeed, neglectful of your undertakings!

SOLDEED: No my Lord Nimon, it would be difficult for us to attack Aneth with the condition our ships are in. Lord Nimon, we have very nearly fulfilled our half of the contract. If you were to advance us some of the technology you have promised us we could complete the contract and claim retribution from Aneth.

NIMON: No Soldeed! The terms of our agreement are very clear! You are buying from me the power to conquer a Galaxy. I will be paid in full!

SOLDEED: But Lord Nimon ...

NIMON: In full! The great Journey of Life is a straight path, Soldeed, do not believe that you can get something for nothing!

SOLDEED: But it's hardly for nothing Lord Nimon, you have had all the tributes but this one so far.

NIMON: Anything less than payment in full is as nothing. Go Soldeed! Go!

SOLDEED: (BOWS) Lord Nimon.

(HE TURNS AND  
GOES)

6A. INT. NIMON COMPLEX. CORRIDOR.

(SOLDEED MAKES HIS  
WAY THROUGH,  
LOOKING GRIM)

6B. EXT. ENTRANCE TO NIMON COMPLEX:

(SOLDEED EMERGES AS  
BEFORE.

SORAK IS THERE  
TO MEET HIM)

SORAK: Soldeed!

SOLDEED: I have spoken with the Nimon.

SORAK: And what does the Nimon say?

SOLDEED: He speaks of many things  
Sorak. He speaks of the great journey  
of Life ...

SORAK: Again? What does he mean by the  
great Journey of Life?

SOLDEED: Mean? It is ....

(HE IS NOT REALLY  
SURE HIMSELF)

... it is a metaphor.

SORAK: For what?

SOLDEED: (SUDDENLY ANGRY) He also  
speaks, Sorak of the retribution he  
shall exact from you if you do not find  
that ship or get a fresh shipment of  
sacrifices from Aneth! Immediately.  
We must attack Aneth!

SORAK: But Soldeed ...

SOLDEED: We must do it Sorak!

7. INT. SPACESHIP HOLD.

(ROMANA IS TRYING  
TO WHIP SOME  
INTEREST OR  
ENTHUSIASM AMONG  
THE ANETHANS)

ROMANA: How can you just sit there and allow yourselves to be taken like this? There's only one Skomnon, now. With eight of us it should be easy to overpower him and take over the ship.

SETH: It wouldn't be any use.

ROMANA: Of course it would. I could fly the ship. We go back and find the Doctor, then take you all home. Back to Aneth, and your families.

TEKA: No!

SETH: We must go to Skonnos, for the sake of Aneth and our families.

TEKA: If we don't go the Nimon will destroy Aneth. The only way we can be free, and our people can stop living in fear is to defeat the Nimon.

SETH: Sssh. Quiet, Teka. No one must know.

ROMANA: No one must know what?

TEKA: That Seth is going to kill the Nimon.

ROMANA: Is that true, Seth?

(SETH LOOKS  
UNCOMFORTABLE AND  
EMBARRASSED)

TEKA: Of course it is. Seth is our prince. He's defeated many of our enemies already. When he's defeated the Nimon and set us free he's going to take us back in triumph. His father's keeping a lookout, so he can have a welcome party ready.

ROMANA: But how will his father know it's not another Skonnan raiding party?

TEKA: Skonna raiding party?

TEKA: Skonnan ships are all black. When we go back we'll paint our ship white. For joy.

ROMANA: That sounds great. But what about this lot? (THE OTHER ANETHANS) Hasn't anybody told them about the joy part?

(SHE INDICATES THE  
LISTLESS AND  
DISPIRITED  
VICTIMS)

TEKA: They've given in already.

ROMANA: Well you lot can sit and whimper. I'm going to get out of here.

(SHE GETS UP AND  
GOES TO THE DOOR.  
SHE LOOKS IN HER  
POCKET, IS SUDDENLY  
ALARMED.

SHE BANGS HER  
FIST ON THE DOOR)



TEKA: What's the matter?

ROMANA: The sonic screwdriver. I must have dropped it outside.

(THE SURFACE OF  
THE DOOR IS COMPLETELY  
SMOOTH. THERE IS NO  
ACCESS TO THE  
LOCK FROM THIS SIDE.

SHE BANGS AGAINST  
THE DOOR IN FURY.  
THEN SHE TURNS  
ROUND AND GLARES AT  
THE ANETHANS IN  
FRUSTRATION.

THEY SHRUG AT HER)

8. INT. SOLDEED'S LAB. DAY.

(SOLDEED WORKING AT  
HIS DESK.

SORAK RUSHES IN)

SORAK: Soldeed!

SOLDEED: What is it now Sorak? Have  
you arranged for another ship to go to  
Aneth?

SORAK: (BREATHLESS) No, sir. It's the  
first ship ... we've located it.

SOLDEED: What?

SORAK: It's reappeared on the  
scanners. And we've just had a signal.  
They had some sort of accident ... the  
captain was killed ... but it's all  
right now and they're heading for home  
at maximum speed.

SOLDEED: When are they due to dock?

SORAK: In less than two hours.

SOLDEED: The Nimon be praised! Prepare  
everything for a fast processing.

SORAK: Yes, sir.

(SOLDEED TURNS  
AND LOOKS OUT  
AT THE COMPLEX  
THROUGH HIS  
WINDOW)

SOLDEED: The great pact nears it's  
completion. Skonnos shall rise and  
conquer!

(WE HEAR A ROAR  
FROM THE COMPLEX)

9. INT. SPACESHIP HOLD.

(ROMANA, GLOWERING WITH  
ANGER, IS SLUMPED  
WITH HER BACK  
AGAINST THE DOOR)

ROMANA: So who is this Nimon thing  
anyway?

TEKA: The great God of Skonnos.

ROMANA: Hmmph.

TEKA: They say he's a terrible  
creature with awesome powers.

SETH: If we don't pay tribute to him  
he will destroy us.

ROMANA: Sounds like a very insecure  
personality to me.

SETH: He lives in the Power Complex.

ROMANA: That fits.

SETH: And no one who has entered the  
complex ever comes out again. Except  
the one called Soldeed.

ROMANA: Soldeed.

SETH: A great scientist and engineer.  
He built the complex for the Nimon.

TEKA: They say he's the only scientist left on Skonnos.

ROMANA: (MORE INTERESTED) Really? Why's that?

SETH: There was a great civil war on Skonnos. Only the army survived.

(ROMANA'S EYES  
BOGGLE)

ROMANA: That sounds like a well organised war.

SETH: That was when the Nimon arrived

ROMANA: And started demanding tributes

TEKA: Yes. But Seth's going to change all that aren't you Seth?

SETH: Oh ... yes. Yes.

(ONE OF THE OTHER  
GIRLS STARTS  
WAILING.

TEKA GETS UP)

TEKA: I'll see to her.

(SHE CROSSES TO THE  
GIRL AND BENDS OVER  
HER PUTTING AN ARM  
ROUND HER TO COMFORT  
HER.

ROMANA WATCHES FOR A  
MOMENT, THEN TURNS TO  
SETH AGAIN, AND SPEAKS  
QUIETLY)

ROMANA: It sounds to me as though you've taken on quite a task.

SETH: (GLOOMY) Yes.

ROMANA: You don't sound very confident. I thought you were the great hero of Aneth?

SETH: But I'm not. I don't want to be a hero. I never have wanted to be - only I've chanced to be around when things have happened, and somehow ... sort of by accident ... I'm not even a prince, really, but even that was a mistake. I'd run away from home you see - which was about the only brave thing I've ever done - and they found me on the road ... and rather than be sent back, I made up some story - and the king thought it was true ...

ROMANA: You have got problems, haven't you?

SETH: I'll just have to do what I can. But don't tell Teka, please. I'm the only hope she's got.

(ROMANA NODS)

ROMANA: Don't worry, Seth.. I'll keep your secret safe.

(THE DOOR OPENS AND  
THE CO-PILOT APPEARS,  
BRANDISHING HIS  
BLASTER)

CO-PILOT: You (TO ROMANA) I need you  
to help me land this ship. The rest  
of you, start getting ready. We're  
nearly there.

(ROMANA STANDS,  
GIVES SETH WHAT  
SHE HOPES IS A  
REASSURING LOOK,  
AND GOES)

10. INT. TARDIS.

(THE DOCTOR EMERGES  
FROM THE CONTROL COLUMN,  
STRAIGHTENS UP AND  
DUSTS HIMSELF  
OFF)

THE DOCTOR: There we are K9. Without  
our Gravitic anomaliser that's the  
best we can manage.

(HE ADJUSTS  
CONTROLS)

Let's give it a try, shall we? Come  
on, old girl ...

(HE EASES THE  
CONTROL LEVERS  
FORWARD. THE  
TARDIS WAVERS,  
SHUDDERS, THEN THERE  
IS A FLASH AND A PUFF  
OF SMOKE FROM THE COLUMN  
AND EVERYTHING STOPS  
AGAIN)

That's very odd. (TO K9) Wouldn't  
you say that was very odd?

(HE SCRATCHES HIS  
HEAD AGAIN)



11. EXT. NIMON COMPLEX. ENTRANCE. DAY.

(SOLDEED ARRIVES OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE, COMPLETE WITH STAFF, AND PLANTS HIMSELF WITH GREAT CEREMONY TO AWAIT THE VICTIMS.

AFTER A MOMENT, THEY ARE LED IN, HEADED BY SORAK, EACH CARRYING A CRYSTAL OF HYMETUSITE, APART FROM SETH AND TEKA WHO ARE EMPTY HANDED.

SETH, NATURALLY, IS AT THE FRONT, WITH TEKA ALONGSIDE HIM.

ROMANA IS AT THE BACK.

THERE ARE GUARDS FLANKING THE LITTLE PROCESSION. THE CO-PILOT IS HELD BETWEEN TWO GUARDS, ON HIS OWN WHEN THE PROCESSION REACHES SOLDEED, SORAK STOPS AND BOWS)

SORKA: I have the honour to present the tribute from Aneth.

(SORAK BOWS AGAIN AND STEPS ASIDE. SUDDENLY SOLDEED NOTICES THAT TWO OF THE ANETHANS ARE EMPTY-HANDED)

SOLDEED: Why have you brought only five crystals? There are two crystals missing!

(SETH LOOKS AROUND  
NERVOUSLY, THEN  
TRIES TO STEP  
FORWARD. HE  
IS INSTANTLY STOPPED  
BY THE GUARDS)

SETH: I ... er (CLEARS THROAT) I am  
Seth, prince of Aneth ...

SOLDEED: Who gave you permission to  
speak?

SETH: I ... er. ... I'm sorry ..  
You asked ...

SOLDEED: Very well. You may address  
me.

SETH: Ah, er, thank you very much,  
sir. You see we did have seven  
crystals when we started out.

SOLDEED: Then where are the other  
two?

(ROMANA PUSHES HER  
WAY FORWARD)

ROMANA: I can answer that.

SOLDEED: What is this? Who are you?

ROMANA: I'm Romana. (SHE EXTENDS  
A HAND) Who are you?

(SORAK STEPS FORWARD AND  
KNOCKS HER ARM DOWN)

SORAK: How dare you speak to the  
great Soldeed like that.

ROMANA: I have a complaint to make to you ...

SOLDEED: What?!!

ROMANA: Yes. This pilot of yours

(INDICATING CO-PILOT,  
WHO SHRINKS VISIBLY)

SOLDEED: Who are you?

ROMANA: I've told you. What about the Doctor?

SOLDEED: What Doctor?

ROMANA: The one this creature left behind.

(SOLDEED LOOKS  
PUZZLED, THEN  
TURNS ON THE  
CO-PILOT)

SOLDEED: You! Who is this woman and where does she come from?

ROMANA: I come from Gallifrey, if that means anything to you.

SOLDEED: If you speak again I shall have you eliminated on the spot. Now. You (CO-PILOT) Tell me.

CO-PILOT: She's a space pirate, sir. She and her companions attacked our ship. They killed the captain, but I managed to drive them off.

SOLDEED: Go on.

CO-PILOT: I captured this one, sir. At great personal risk ...

SOLDEED: Yes, yes ...

CO-PILOT: But unfortunately our engines had been damaged in their attack, and I had to repair them.

ROMANA: That's a lie! We crashed into your ship, but it was already stopped and the captain was already dead.

SOLDEED: You have been warned.  
(TO CO-PILOT) How did you repair the damage?

CO-PILOT: I had to adapt the engines to use Hymetusite, sir. That's where the other two crystals went.

SOLDEED: You had to adapt the engines?

CO-PILOT: Yes sir. Or we'd never had got home at all. I thought five crystals was better than none, and then there were the Anethans.

SOLDEED: Exactly how did you adapt the engines?

CO-PILOT: Well, sir, I ... I ...

SOLDEED: Go on.

CO-PILOT: I ... the fuel cells, er, I modified the fuel cells.

SOLDEED: You are a liar.

CO-PILOT: No, sir. Truly.

SOLDEED: You wouldn't have the skill or the knowledge to adapt those engines in a million years! You deviated from the set course, didn't you? Didn't you?

(THE CO-PILOT LOOKS  
NERVOUS)

CO-PILOT: It was a computer malfunction sir.

SOLDEED: Your story changes by the second. You have endangered the cargo.

CO-PILOT: Honestly it was a computer malfunction sir ...

SOLDEED: You know the penalty for endangering the tribute to the Nimon?

CO-PILOT: But sir ...

SOLDEED: The Nimon himself will deal with you.

CO-PILOT No. No!

(SOLDEED POINTS HIS  
STAFF AT HIM.

THE CO-PILOT SHRINKS  
BACK IN TERROR)

SOLDEED: Into the complex!

(THE CO-PILOT TRIES  
TO ESCAPE BUT IS  
GRABBED BY THE  
GUARDS, AND FORCED  
THROUGH THE ENTRANCE  
INTO THE COMPLEX.  
HIS CRIES ECHO AND  
DIE AS HE DISAPPEARS  
INSIDE)

SOLDEED: (cont) And now. The rest of  
them. Including her!

(INDICATING  
ROMANA.

THE GUARDS ROUND ON  
THE VICTIMS AND START  
HERDING THEM  
TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE)

12. INT. TARDIS.

(THE DOCTOR HAS  
COMPLETED HIS  
REPAIR AGAIN, AND  
NOW TRIES TO MOVE  
THE TARDIS ONCE  
MORE.

HE SETS THE CONTROLS,  
VERY GINGERLY, AND  
CROSSES HIS FINGERS  
AT K9)

THE DOCTOR: Right, here we go again.  
A ter five, four, three, two one ...

(IT IS ALL RIGHT.  
THIS TIME IT WORKS,  
THROUGH SLOWLY)

Ah, success at last. Right,  
K9, let's see if we can find our  
way to Skonnos, and recover my  
gravitic anomaliser.

K9: Master.

THE DOCTOR: And Romana, of course.

(HE SETS CO-ORDIANATES,  
HAPPILY)

13. COUNCIL CHAMBER OF SKONNOS.

(GATHERED TO GETHER ARE  
A GROUP OF SKONNIAN  
MILITARY LEADERS.

THEY ARE TALKING  
EXCITEDLY AMONGST  
THEMSELVES.

SORAK IS AMONGST  
THEM.

SOLDEED ENTERS  
ONTO A HIGH DAIS.

THEY FALL SILENT  
AS HE ENTERS)

SOLDEED: Gentlemen! The final  
tribute is at this moment being  
paid to the Nimon!

(THE SKONNIANS ALL RAISE  
THEIR FISTS IN A SALUTE)

SKONNIANS: Hail to the Nimon!

SOLDEED: I think you  
will all appreciate the irony that  
in providing these ... tributes  
for us, the planet Aneth has given us  
the power with which we shall re-  
conquer them and from there move on to  
build the Second Great Skonnian  
Empire!

SKONNIANS: Hail Soldeed!



SOLDEED: The Galaxy shall shudder at  
the name of Skonnos!

SKONNIANS: Skonnos!

SOLDEED: Our fire shall infest their  
skies!

SKONNIANS: Skonnos!

SOLDEED: It shall be the greatest  
Empire the Galaxy has seen! An Empire  
of fire steel and blood! The Second  
Skonnian Empire!

SKONNIANS: Skonnos!

SOLDEED: Even now our factories are  
awaiting the secrets the Nimon shall  
unfold to us. Secrets that will  
give Skonnos the most powerful ships  
the galaxy has seen! Skonnos  
shall rule!

SKONNIANS: Skonnos!

14. INT. NIMON COMPLEX. CORRIDORS.

(THE CO-PILOT EDGES  
ALONG A CORRIDOR  
NERVOUSLY TOWARDS  
A JUNCTION.

HE HEARS SOMEONE APPROACHING,  
AND STOPS, PRESSING  
HIMSELF AGAINST THE WALL.

THE CORRIDORS ARE  
CONSTRUCTED IN SUCH  
A WAY, CURVING AND MAZE-  
LIKE, THAT IT IS NEVER  
POSSIBLE TO SEE VERY  
FAR IN ANY DIRECTION.

HE REACHES INSIDE HIS  
TUNIC, AND TAKES OUT  
A BLASTER WHICH HE  
HAD HIDDEN THERE.

AT THE END OF THE SHORT  
SECTION ROMANA AND  
SETH APPEAR, FOLLOWED  
BY THE OTHER ANETHANS,  
CARRYING THEIR CRYSTALS.

THEY PASS ALONG WITHOUT  
SEEING THE CO-PILOT,  
WHO DUCKS BACK AWAY  
FROM THEM.

WHEN THEY HAVE PASSED,  
HE CREEPS FORWARD,  
BLASTER IN HAND, TO  
FOLLOW THEM.

HE REACHES THE CORNER,  
TURNS, AND DISCOVERS  
THAT THERE APPEARS TO  
BE NO PASSAGEWAY IN  
THE DIRECTION THEY WENT.  
ONLY A BLANK WALL.

PUZZLED, THE CO-  
PILOT TURNS BACK THE  
WAY HE CAME, AND FINDS  
THAT THAT, TOO, HAS  
BEEN SEALED OFF.  
WHEN HE TURNS BACK,  
HE FINDS THAT THERE  
IS NOW AN OPENING  
DIRECTLY AHEAD,  
WHERE BEFORE THERE HAD  
ONLY BEEN A BLANK  
WALL. HE HAS  
NO OPTION BUT TO  
GO THAT WAY.

AS HE DOES SO, THERE  
IS A LOW NIMON  
GROWL ECHOING  
ROUND THE  
COMPLEX)

15. INT. NIMON COMPLEX. ANOTHER CORRIDOR.

(ROMANA, SETH TEKA AND  
THE OTHERS. THE  
GROWL REVERBERATES,  
TEKA GRABS SETH'S ARM)

TEKA: Seth ... what is it?

SETH: It must be the Nimon.

ROMANA: Doesn't sound very happy,  
does he?

SETH: I wonder where he is? These  
corrdiors all look the same.

ROMANA: Don't worry, Seth, I have a  
feeling that if we don't find him, he'll  
find us.

SETH: That's what I'm worried about.

TEKA: How can you joke about it?

(SETH GRIMACES, AWAY  
FROM HER, HE WASN'T  
JOKING)

ROMANA: Keep together, everybody.  
Come on.

(SHE STEPS FORWARD, AND  
FINDS THE WAY BLOCKED,  
SHAKES HER HEAD, THEN  
TURNS LEFT, SEES  
THE NEW OPENING AND  
LEADS OFF THAT WAY)

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16. INT. TARDIS.

(THE DOCTOR HAS ARRIVED  
OVER SKONNOS. HE SWITCHES ON  
THE VIEWSCREEN, AND  
SEES AN ARIAL VIEW OF  
SKONNOS, DOMINATED  
BY THE NIMON COMPLEX)

THE DOCTOR: There we are, Hmm.  
Hello, that's very interesting.

(HE TURNS A KNOB,  
AND GETS A SLIGHT ZOOM  
IN ON THE COMPLEX.

SEES FROM ABOVE,  
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME  
COMPLEX PRINTED CIRCUIT,  
FOLLOWING A CIRCULAR  
PATTERN, WITH THE  
HORNS PROJECTING  
FROM THE CENTRE)

I think we'll take a look in there  
to start with.

(HE OPERATES CONTROLS  
AGAIN, AND THE  
TARDIS MOVES, THEN  
JUDGERS TO A STOP)

It has its own force shield ...  
now why should that be, I wonder?  
K9?

K9: Sensors detect hemispherical force  
shield with a strength of 7,300  
megazones.

THE DOCTOR: Just what I thought.  
We'll just have to land outside it,  
somewhere. Preferably somewhere  
unobstrusive.

17. EXT. NIMON COMPLEX. ENTRANCE. DAY.

(THE GUARDS STAND ON  
DUTY BY THE ENTRANCE,  
AS BEFORE.

SUDDENLY THERE IS THE  
FAMILIAR (TO US) SOUND  
OF THE TARDIS MATERIALISING.  
THE GUARDS WATCH IN  
AMAZEMENT AS IT TAKES  
SHAPE BEFORE THEIR VERY  
EYES.

THEY APPROACH IT NERVOUSLY,  
AND ARE EVEN MORE AMAZED  
WHEN THE DOOR SUDDENLY  
OPENS AND THE DOCTOR  
STEPS OUT.

HE LOOKS AROUND, TAKES  
OFF HIS HAT TO THE  
GUARDS)

THE DOCTOR: Good morning. Or  
is it evening here? Lovely day,  
isn't it? ... Wasn't it?

(THE BEMUSED GUARDS  
RAISE THEIR BLASTERS,  
THREATENINGLY AT HIM)

Oh no. Not again. Why is it that  
everywhere I go in this universe  
there are heavies like you, pointing  
guns or blasters or phasers at me?  
(cont...)

(THE GUARDS LOOK AT  
EACH OTHER, PUZZLED,  
THEN ADVANCE ON HIM,  
MENACINGLY)

THE DOCTOR: (cont) Now, don't do anything hasty. This is just a flying visit ... Will you take me to your leader?



18. INT. NIMON COMPLEX. 'DINING AREA'

(ROMANA AND HER  
GANG COME OUT  
OF A CORRIDOR INTO  
A DOMED CHAMBER.  
IN THE CENTRE OF THIS  
IS A SINGLE PEDESTAL TABLE,  
ON WHICH LIES THE  
BODY OF A YOUNG MAN.

AT LEAST, IT LOOKS  
AS THOUGH IT WAS  
ONCE A YOUNG MAN,  
DRESSED IN A SHORT  
TUNIC NOT UNLIKE  
THOSE OF THE ANETHANS.  
BUT NOW THE BODY  
IS GREY. IT ALMOST  
SEEMS LIKE A HOLLOW  
HUSK, A FRAGILE  
SHELL OF WHAT WAS  
ONCE A BODY, LIKE A  
FLY WHEN IT HAS BEEN  
EATEN BY A SPIDER.  
THE ANETHANS, NATURALLY,  
RECOIL IN HORROR  
WHEN THEY SEE THIS.

ROMANA STEPS  
CAUTIOUSLY FORWARD  
TO EXAMINE IT)

SETH: What is it?

ROMANA: It was once a person.

TEKA: Is he dead?

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ROMANA: Yes. It's as though something has sucked the life force out of him, and left simply a husk ...

(SETH MOVES  
FORWARD TENTATIVELY,  
LOOKS AT THE  
BODY, THEN STRETCHES  
OUT A HAND TO TOUCH  
IT)

TEKA: That's what will happen to us, isn't it? It's not just the hymetusite that's the tribute ... it's us, too ...

(THE OTHERS BREAK  
DOWN AND MOAN.

SETH FINALLY TOUCHES  
THE BODY. AS  
HE DOES SO IT CRUMBLES,  
A HOLLOW SHELL  
CRUMBLING INTO DUST)

SETH: The Nimon did this, didn't he?

(ROMANA NODS)

I will kill him. If he can be killed, I'll destroy him.

ROMANA: He'll be waiting for us, somewhere.

TEKA: Let's get out of here.

19. INT. SOLDEED'S LABORATORY. DAY.

(THE DOCTOR  
IS MARCHED IN.  
SOLDEED IS WORKING  
AT A PIECE OF  
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT.

HE LOOKS UP AS  
THE DOCTOR COMES TO  
A HALT IN FRONT OF  
HIM)

SOLDEED: Who is this?

THE DOCTOR: Hello, I'm the Doctor.  
I just dropped in in passing.

SOLDEED: Dropped in?

THE DOCTOR: That's right. You  
must be Soldeed?

SOLDEED: I am.

THE DOCTOR: I thought so. I say,  
that's very interesting.

(HE GOES ROUND  
THE SIDE OF  
THE DESK AND  
STARTS EXAMINING  
THE EQUIPMENT SOLDEED  
WAS WORKING ON)

Very interesting. Having a little  
trouble with the neutrino conversion  
I see.

SOLDEED: The what?

THE DOCTOR: The neutrino conversion.

SOLDEED: What do you know of such matters?

THE DOCTOR: Oh I've come across similar things, here and there ...

SOLDEED: How could you? This is my invention.

THE DOCTOR: Indeed? Then it's very funny you don't know what a neutrino conversion is. I wouldn't stick your screwdriver in that bit, you'll ruin the whole thing.

(SOLDEED GLARES  
AT HIM. BUT  
BEFORE HE CAN SPEAK  
THE DOCTOR HURRIES  
ON)

Did you know someone's building a black hole on your doorstep?

SOLDEED: A what?

THE DOCTOR: Good heavens, we are feeling ignorant today aren't we? A black hole. I nearly got stuck in it. Along with one of your spacecraft.

SOLDEED: Who are you? What are you talking about?

THE DOCTOR: I thought I'd introduced myself when I came in. It was a very good thing I did get stuck in that hole otherwise your ship would still be there.

SOLDEED: You rescued my ship?

THE DOCTOR: That's right. With a little help from my assistant. Nice girl. You haven't seen her, I suppose? About so high, blonde hair, always sticking her nose into things that shouldn't concern her?

SOLDEED: Why should I have seen her?

THE DOCTOR: I thought this was where they were heading.

SOLDEED: I have no idea what you're talking about.

(THE DOOR OPENS,  
AND SORAK ENTERS,  
CARRYING THE  
GRAVITIC ANOMALISER)

SORAK: Soldeed, sir, I checked that ship, as you ordered. And I found this. (SEES THE DOCTOR)  
Oh ...

(THE DOCTOR  
LEAPS FORWARD  
AND GRABS THE  
GRAVITIC ANOMALISER  
FROM HIM, WITH A  
CRY OF TRIUMPH)

THE DOCTOR: Ah! You've no idea what I'm talking about? What about this, then?

SOLDEED: What is it?

THE DOCTOR: It's my gravitic anomaliser. Out of my Tardis. Now, where's Romana?

SOLDEED: Out of harm's way - where  
you should be, too, you meddling  
fool!

(HE GRABS HIS  
STAFF AND WHIRLS  
IT ROUND TO POINT  
AT THE DOCTOR.

THE GUARDS AND  
SORAK THROW  
THEMSELVES ON THE  
FLOOR AS HE 'FIRES' IT.

THE DOCTOR BRANDISHES  
THE GRAVITIC  
ANOMOLISER WHICH  
GLASHES AND DEFLECTS  
THE BLAST FROM THE  
STAFF.

HE STUFFS THE  
GRAVITIC ANOMALISER  
INTO A POCKET AND  
BOUNDS OUT OF THE  
DOOR, JUST AS ANOTHER  
FLASH EXPLODES WHERE  
HE WAS STANDING)

After him, you fools! You dolts!  
Stop him!

(THE GUARDS SCRAMBLE  
TO THEIR FEET,  
AND MAKE FOR THE  
DOOR)

20. INT. CORRIDOR OFF SOLDEED'S LAB.

(THE DOCTOR  
RUSHES DOWN IT.  
AT THE END HE CAN  
GO ONE OF TWO WAYS.  
HE MAKES TO GO IN  
ONE DIRECTION,  
THEN CHANGES HIS  
MIND AND GOES IN THE  
OTHER)

21. INT. SKONNIAN COUNCIL CHAMBER.

(THE DOCTOR  
BURSTS IN STRAIGHT  
ON TO THE DAIS.

THERE ARE STILL  
ONE OR TWO  
SKONNIAN  
MILITARY LEADERS  
MILLING AROUND.

THEY LOOK UP  
AT HIM IN CONSIDERABLE  
SURPRISE)

THE DOCTOR: Unaccustomed as I  
am to public speaking I would like  
to say just one thing. And let me  
make this perfectly clear. I stand  
before you looking for a quick way  
out of this place. Can any of  
you tell me where it is?

(THE SKONNIANS  
ARE THUNDERSTRUCK.  
THE DOCTOR LEAPS  
OFF THE DAIS JUST  
AS A GUARD BURSTS  
THROUGH BEHIND HIM,  
FIRING HIS BLASTER.

AS THE DOCTOR,  
HAVING SPOTTED  
AN EXIT, RUNS TOWARDS  
IT, HE PASSES THE  
CONTRACT ON THE  
WALL. HE STARES  
AT IT FOR ABOUT A  
SECOND AND THEN DASHES  
OUT BEFORE ANYONE CAN  
STOP HIM.  
THE GUARD MEANTIME IS  
SHOUTING AT PEOPLE TO  
TRY AND STOP HIM)



22. EXT. NIMON COMPLEX ENTRANCE. DAY.

(THE DOCTOR  
COMES SCOOTING  
IN HEADING FOR  
THE TARDIS.  
BEFORE HE CAN REACH  
IT, GUARDS APPEAR  
AND HEAD HIM OFF.  
HE DIVES FOR  
COVER AS THEY START  
SHOOTING AT HIM.

THERE IS NO WAY  
HE CAN GET INTO  
THE TARDIS PAST THE  
GUARDS. AS THEY  
CLOSE IN ON HIM HE  
TRIES TO ESCAPE FROM  
THEM.

SOLDEED, SORAK AND  
MORE GUARDS APPEAR.

THE DOCTOR DIVES  
FOR COVER INTO THE  
COMPLEX.

THE GUARDS STOP  
OUTSIDE THE DOOR  
AND THEN TURN UNCERTAINLY  
TO SOLDEED AS HE  
ARRIVES)

SORAK: He went into the complex!

(SOLDEED LAUGHS  
TRIUMPHANTLY)

SOLDEED: Excellent, excellent.  
The Nimon will deal with him.  
Goodbye Doctor!

23. INT. NIMON COMPLEX. CORRIDORS.

(THE DOCTOR  
IS IN A CORRIDOR.  
HE PAUSES FOR  
BREATH AND LOOKS  
ROUND, CURIOUS. HE  
WALKS FORWARD AND  
TURNS A CORRIDOR,  
THEN LOOKS BACK BEHIND  
HIM.

OUT OF HIS POCKET  
HE TAKES A PACKET  
OF COLOURED PAPER STARS.  
AS HE WALKS ALONG HE  
STICKS STARS ON  
EACH OF THE CORNERS  
HE PASSES. THEN HE  
REACHES A DEAD  
END AND TURNS BACK.  
HE FOLLOWS HIS TRAIL  
BACK FOR ABOUT  
THREE STARS, AND  
THEN THE TRAIL OF  
STARS STOPS. HE LOOKS  
PUZZLED, AND THEN  
CARRIES ON IN THE NEW  
DIRECTION, STICKING  
UP MORE STARS)

(Continuity Note:  
Since the point of  
the labyrinth interior  
is that the configuration  
of the walls keeps  
changing, it won't matter  
too much if subsequent  
scenes in the labyrinth  
sometimes show stars  
and sometimes don't)

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24. INT. NIMON COMPLEX. 'LARDER'.

(ROMANA, SETH,  
TEKA AND CO  
ENTER ANOTHER  
CHAMBER, SIMILAR  
IN SIZE AND SHAPE  
TO THE OTHER.

ONCE INSIDE,  
THEY STOP AND LOOK  
AROUND IN HORROR.  
ALONG ONE WALL,  
IN ALCOVES LIKE  
BOXES, IS A  
ROW OF YOUNG PEOPLE.  
THEY APPEAR TO BE  
ASLEEP OR UNCONSCIOUS.

ON ANOTHER WALL  
IS A HEAVY DOOR,  
PART OF THE NUCLEAR  
FURNACE WHICH  
IS AT THE CORE OF  
THE COMPLEX, THIS IS  
WHERE THE CRYSTALS ARE  
LOADED INTO THE  
FURNACE.

ROMANA GOES AND  
EXAMINES THE 'SLEEPING'  
(VICTIMS)

SETH: Are they ... dead?

ROMANA: No. They seem to be in  
some sort of suspended animation.  
This must be the Nimon's deep  
freeze.

TEKA: What's that?

ROMANA: Well, from the look of that poor husk next door I'd guess that the Nimon feeds by ingesting the binding energy in organic compounds ...

(TEKA'S PUZZLED  
REACTION)

ROMANA: Such as human flesh. This must be his store cupboard. His larder. I think these poor creatures must be waiting their turn.

TEKA: It's horrible.

(TEKA STARTS TO  
CRY. SETH COMFORTS  
HER. THE OTHERS  
SLUMP DOWN AGAIN)

SETH: What are we going to do?

ROMANA: Well, there's no point hanging around here. Let's see if we can find a way out.

(SHE TURNS.  
AND SEES THE  
CO-PILOT IN THE  
DOORWAY, POINTING HIS  
BLASTER AT THEM)

CO-PILOT: Oh, no you don't. Stay right where you are.

ROMANA: What are you doing?  
We're all in this together.

CO-PILOT: You may be. But I'm going to get out of here. Now, get over there, with the others. I want you all together. (cont...)

(ROMANA, SETH  
AND TEKA MOVE  
TO THE OTHER  
ANETHANS)

CO-PILOT: (cont) That's better.

ROMANA: Now what?

CO-PILOT: (SHOUTS) Nimon! Lord  
Nimon! They're here! I've brought  
you the tribute from Aneth!

(IN REPLY, THERE  
IS A POWERFUL ROAR  
FROM SOMEWHERE  
NEARBY.

THE CO-PILOT  
GRINS, AND STANDS  
KEEPING THE OTHERS  
COVERED).

25. INT. NIMON COMPLEX. CORRIDORS.

(THE DOCTOR,  
MAKING HIS WAY  
FORWARD. HE  
HEARS THE ROAR  
OF THE NIMON,  
REACTS TO IT, AND  
CARRIES ON FORWARD)

26. INT. NIMON COMPLEX. 'LARDER'.

(THE CO-PILOT  
COVERING THE  
ANETHANS,  
AS BEFORE.

THEY LOOK ROUND  
AS THERE IS A SHUFFLING  
SOUND FROM THE  
OTHER DOORWAY,  
AND A ROAR.

THE NIMON ENTERS.  
HE STANDS, SWAYING,  
MOVING HIS HUGE  
HEAD FROM SIDE  
TO SIDE. TEKA AND  
SOME OF THE OTHERS  
SCREAM. THE CO-PILOT  
SWALLOWS HARD, BUT  
TRIES TO CONTROL HIS  
FEAR.

EVEN ROMANA LOOKS  
A BIT SHAKEN BY  
THE SIGHT OF THE  
NIMON)

NIMON: Who dares call the Nimon?

CO-PILOT: It's me ... er, I do,  
sir. I've brought you the latest  
sacrifices.

NIMON: I need no one to bring  
the sacrifices to me.

CO-PILOT: They were very rebellious, sir. I've brought them all the way from Aneth, but they were trouble, sir. Soldeed thought ...

NIMON: He did not send you to bring me sacrifices. He sent you to be executed.

CO-PILOT: No ... really ...

NIMON: You are a liar and a coward. You shall die. Now.

(HE TURNS HIS  
HEAD AND POINTS  
THE HORNS TOWARDS  
THE CO-PILOT.  
THE CO-PILOT RAISES  
HIS BLASTER AND  
FIRES WILDLY AT  
THE NIMON. BUT  
THE SHOTS HAVE NO  
EFFECT WHATEVER. THE+  
NIMON MERELY ROARS,  
AND ADVANCES ON  
HIM.

THE PILOT SCREAMS  
IN TERROR, THEN  
THE NIMON DISCHARGES  
A BLAST AT  
HIM FROM HIS  
HORNS.

THE CO-PILOT  
SCREAMS AGAIN, AND  
FALLS IN A HEAP.

THE OTHERS CLING TO  
EACH OTHER IN FEAR AS  
THE NIMON SLOWLY  
TURNS TOWARDS THEM,  
LOWERING THE GREAT  
HEAD, READY TO  
DISCHARGE. HE AIMS  
DIRECTLY AT ROMANA)



SETH: No! No!

(THE NIMON BELLOWS,  
LOUDLY)

SUPOSE CAM

End  
Titles:

FADE OUT